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A 'COUNTRYSIDE' *Christmas*

So many holiday happenings are just a short car ride away in the Lehigh Valley and Metro has the scoop on what you have to do and see before the season is over. 11

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8 THINGS TO KNOW

Explainer: The case for Trump's impeachment - and the case against it

U.S. President Donald Trump boards Air Force One at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland on December 14, 2019. REUTERS

1

Either way, Trump is likely to be acquitted.

The Democratic-controlled U.S. House of Representatives could vote as soon as Wednesday to formally charge President Donald Trump, a Republican, with "high crimes and misdemeanors," making him only the third U.S. president in history to be impeached.

That sets up a trial in January in the Republican-run Senate, where he is expected to be acquitted.

In their articles of impeachment, Democrats charge that Trump abused his power as president by pressuring a foreign government, Ukraine's, to help him win re-election. They accuse the president of endangering the U.S. Constitution, jeopardizing national security and undermining the integrity of the 2020 election.

At the heart of their impeachment case is testimony by current and former officials alleging an extraordinary effort that went outside official channels to pressure Ukraine to announce a corruption investigation into former Democratic Vice President Joe Biden, a potential political rival in 2020.

The allegations by Trump allies against Biden – that he used his position as vice president to force the removal of a Ukrainian prosecutor to stop an investigation of an energy company on which his son Hunter Biden was a director - have been discredited. Neither Trump nor his allies have provided evidence to support them and Biden has denied them.

Trump pressed Ukraine's new president, Volodymyr Zelensky, in a July 25 phone call to work with his attorney general, William Barr, and his personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani, to investigate the Bidens and also a debunked theory that Ukraine, not Russia, interfered in the 2016 election.

Democrats allege that the evidence they have gathered in their inquiry shows Trump withheld a high-profile White House meeting and nearly $400 million in security aid to pressure Zelensky to announce the investigations. Trump ultimately released the money after news of the delay became public, although the White House meeting has yet to take place.

Democrats also charge Trump with obstructing Congress by preventing members of his administration from cooperating with the probe, in defiance of the Constitution.

"If the president can first abuse his power and then stonewall all congressional requests for information, Congress cannot fulfill its duty to act as a check and balance against the executive - and the president becomes a dictator," House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler said last Wednesday.

The Democrats' case rests in large part on a rough transcript of the July 25 call, in which Trump asks Zelensky to "do us a favor" and work with Barr and Giuliani in carrying out the investigations he sought. Current and former U.S. officials testified that Trump directed them to work with Giuliani on Ukraine issues, despite the fact that the former New York mayor was a private citizen.

U.S. Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland provided some of the most damaging testimony. He said he spoke directly with Trump about the effort to pressure Ukraine and said other top administration officials were involved. He testified that Ukrainian officials understood they would have to announce the investigations in order to get the withheld security aid.

Trump says he has done nothing wrong, and his Republican allies in Congress agree with him. None are expected to vote to impeach him this week.

"You can't make your case against the president because nothing happened," Representative Doug Collins, the top Republican on the House Judiciary Committee, said last week.

"You can't make your case against the president because nothing happened."

Representative Doug Collins

Republicans have coalesced around the argument that the Democrats' case amounts to hearsay because it mostly relies on the testimony of officials who did not deal directly with Trump. (Democrats say Trump's refusal to cooperate has prevented them from getting the testimony of other officials directly involved in the matter - a central pillar of their obstruction of Congress charge.)

Republicans say no actual exchange of favors took place, because Zelensky ultimately did get the delayed aid and the meeting with Trump that he sought - albeit on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly - even though the Ukrainian president did not agree to the investigations that Trump wanted.

They argue that Democrats are subverting the will of voters who elected Trump president in 2016 simply because they do not like his policies. REUTERS

Vaping increases the risk of lung disease by a third

2 Using e-cigarettes significantly increases the risk of developing chronic lung conditions such as asthma or emphysema, U.S. researchers said on Monday. The study, published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, is among the first to show the potential long-term harms of using e-cigarettes, which are often promoted as a safer alternative to tobacco and a means of helping smokers quit. It found that e-cigarettes increased the risk of lung disease by a third compared with those who never smoked or vaped. And the risk was even higher among adults who used both e-cigarettes and smoked tobacco. "E-cigarettes are promoted as harmless and they're not," Stanton Glantz, director of the University of California San Francisco Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education, said. REUTERS

Investigation of Canadian billionaire couple's death

3 The investigation into the deaths of a Canadian pharmaceutical billionaire couple by a private detective hired by the victims' family has been completed, the chief homicide investigator of the Toronto police and the family said in a joint statement on Monday without revealing any of its findings. Police reiterated on Monday that they are treating the case of Barry and Honey Sherman as a targeted double murder, Detective Sergeant Hank Idsinga told reporters. He called on the public to come forward with tips as the investigation headed by police continues. Sherman was 75 and his wife, 70 at the time of their deaths, which stunned the worlds of business, politics and philanthropy, and drew public condolences from prominent figures including Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. REUTERS

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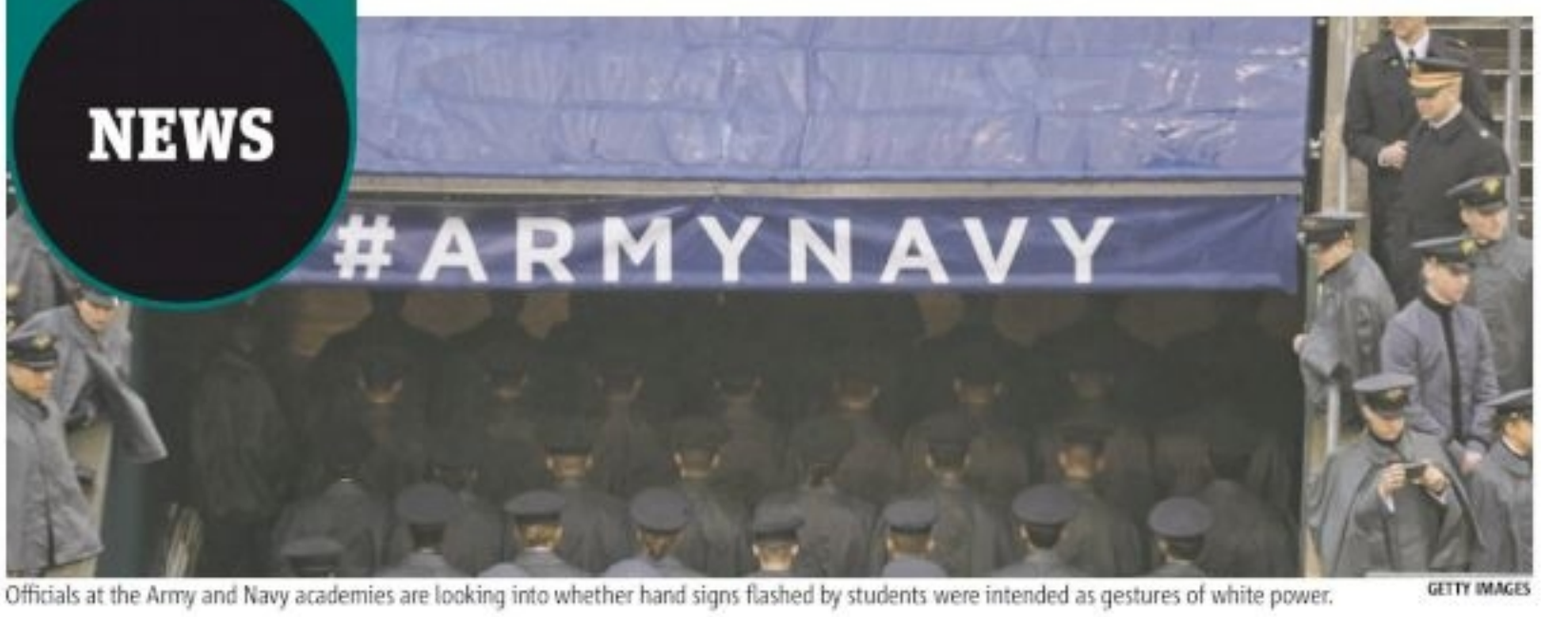
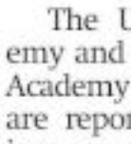


Officials at the Army and Navy academies are looking into whether hand signs flashed by students were intended as gestures of white power. GETTY IMAGES

Military investigates 'white power' gesture at Army-Navy game

The gesture is also commonly used in the "circle game."



BECCA GLASSER-BAKER
Rebecca.Glasser@metro.us

The U.S. Naval Academy and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point are reportedly investigating a possible "white power" hand gesture at the Army-Navy game in Philly over the weekend.

Clips surfaced showing students from each academy making the gesture, which can be described as an upside-down "OK" hand gesture, during the pre-game broadcast. The clips have attracted attention on social media.

which is an attempt to trick another person into looking at the symbol, made somewhere below the waist.

Twitter user @Brendon-Jennings tweeted, "Our country has gone SOFT as hell. Saying that this kid is throwing the "White Power" sign is an absolute joke. It's the circle game. Stop getting so bent out of shape over little things that mean nothing. People just getting offended to say their [sic] offended at this point."

After the footage went viral, West Point shared in a statement to Inquirer.com that "West Point is looking into the matter" and said "at this time we do not know the intent of the cadets."

> **"Based on findings of the investigation, those involved will be held appropriately accountable. It would be inappropriate to speculate any further while we are conducting this investigation."**
>
> Cmdr. Alana Garas, Naval Academy

"Just wanted to enjoy the #ArmyNavy. Didn't expect or want to see the White Power symbol thrown up by cadets on national television," said Twitter user @BruthaManTho, along with images and a video of the incident. "They are well aware of what they are doing and think it's funny. Disgusting. #ArmyNavyGame."

The gesture has been classified as a symbol promoting white power, according to the Anti-Defamation League. However, it is open to interpretation, and sometimes the symbol represents a harmless "OK" or something known as a "circle game,"

On Sunday, the Naval Academy launched an investigation as well.

Cmdr. Alana Garas, a Naval Academy spokesperson, said in a statement to Inquirer.com, "U.S. Naval Academy officials have appointed a preliminary inquiry officer to conduct an internal investigation into the hand gestures made during the ESPN 'College GameDay' broadcast prior to [Saturday's] Army-Navy game."

Garas added, "Based on findings of the investigation, those involved will be held appropriately accountable. It would be inappropriate to speculate any further while we are conducting this investigation."

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‘No Safe Spaces’ for Adam Carolla

Podcaster Adam Carolla, a conservative, talks to Metro about his newsy documentary on cancel culture and free speech.

A.D. AMOROSI
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Every day, we hear about attacks on free speech and free thought.

That these assaults come in the guise of liberals silencing conservatives – not allowing conservative speakers, professors or comedians at universities, shouting down those whose voices don’t match their own in the name of trigger warnings, safe spaces or cancel culture — is against the tenants of the First Amendment stating that freedoms of religion, speech and the press are among Americans’ most prominent rights.

To this end, America’s most downloaded podcaster-comedian Adam Carolla and radio talk show host-author Dennis Prager — conservatives, both — filmed their “No Safe Spaces” documentary over the course of two years with director Justin Folk, starting with conservative podcaster-writer Ben Shapiro’s September 2017 speech at UC Berkeley, the birthplace of liberal campus activism in the ‘60s, and now the flashpoint for cancel culture at its most violent. By October 2019, “No Safe Spaces” was ready to screen and distribute, first at several theaters in Arizona, then slowly through the rest of the U.S. due to unwilling liberal screening rooms and anti-conservative distribution chains, until Dec. 6 when the documentary opened widely. Even this success came with its headaches, however, as, on Dec. 11, a group of masked men intimidated “No Safe Spaces” moviegoers at a La Habra, California theater.

“It’s not a film that a lot of folks in the ‘mainstream media’ can embrace, because it kind of takes a poke at them,” said Carolla of “No Safe Spaces” during a phone call with Metro. “It’s saying that they’re not doing their job. The film is considered ‘conservative’ even though it features a bunch of liberal faces in it, all agreeing about the right to free speech. It’s curious, though that it is controversial because we’re talking about the right to free speech. That shows you the state we’re in – that free speech is controversial.”

For all of their popularity as podcasters and radio hosts, Prager and Carolla could have simply stayed in the cozy confines of their respective studios and opined, as opposed to going out and making a movie. So why do it?

“People ask me all the time why I did ‘No Safe Spaces,’ in the same way they ask me why I did ‘Dancing with the Stars,’ and my answer is usually ‘yes,’” said Carolla over the phone. “I used to have a regular job – carpenter, truck driver, roofer – so that when people ask me

if want to be part of a worthwhile project, I say 'yes.'"

In "No Safe Spaces," conservative-minded university professors, socio-political commentators (e.g. Ann Coulter) and television personalities (e.g. Tim Allen) are shown as being removed from jobs due to beliefs, or silenced – even shouted down by student groups un-governed by anyone but their youthful peers. Carolla and Prager watched that happen too often to contemporaries to let it go unchecked. "All of these situations are bad, but, to me, the scary Orwellian part is when a comment is misinterpreted. There was a tennis announcer [Doug Adler] who was talking about Venus Williams, and said she was putting on 'guerilla tactics,' as in 'guerilla fighting,' 'guerilla warfare.' They took it as 'gorilla,' the animal, and he got fired. He said he used the phrase 'guerilla warfare,' all the time, but they said they didn't hear it that way, and now he doesn't have a job. That to me is really Orwellian and scary."

As a comedian who "faces backlash all the time," Carolla is undisturbed and unmoved by any potential hassle he has received for the due-diligence of "No Safe Spaces" and its take down of cancel culture and anti-free speech rhetoric. "I make jokes, speak my mind, and people get angry. That's my business. I responded to Greta Thunburg getting the Time Person of the Year thing. I tweeted that was great, and hopefully she'd grow up to marry Mark Ruffalo, gets pregnant and gives birth to a recycling bin. Everybody tweeted me back that I'm an assh-le, OK, that's my business to make people angry. It's supposed to be to make people laugh, but a percentage of them just get mad. That's what I signed up for."

Carolla quotes from the movie when asked to state what audiences should get out of his documentary, beyond mere politics, by pointing to a conservative professor from Berkeley who claimed that he disagreed with everything Ben Shapiro said during his talk ("which is stupid because Ben Shapiro says so many things that are patently obvious," said Carolla), but that Shapiro had the right to speak his mind, "and that he would defend his right to say it. That's corny, but that is the whole point of the the film."

"People ask me all the time why I did 'No Safe Spaces,' in the same way they ask me why I did 'Dancing with the Stars,' and my answer is usually 'yes.' I used to have a regular job – carpenter, truck driver, roofer – so that when people ask me if want to be part of a worthwhile project, I say 'yes.'"

Adam Carolla

For all of Carolla's conservative viewpoints put forth in "No Safe Spaces," not once does he or Prager mention the President – America's top conservative – by name. What's his take on Trump?

"I don't have the Trump derangement syndrome that a lot of people have," said Carolla. "I'm not triggered by Trump. I don't have that anger that people have toward him. I get that he comes across as a pompous ass on occasion. But, it mostly amuses me. I know a lot of people – including my dad – who are very angry with the guy. He doesn't bother me. If you are a narcissist, you get outraged. You can disagree with the guy all you like – but it's the narcissists that are triggered. I'm not. I like some of his policies, and disagree with a few other policies. Either way, I don't have the knee-jerk reactions to him that others do."

Adam Carolla's take on Trump: "I'm not triggered by him." CONTRIBUTED

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Harvey Weinstein claims he broke the glass ceiling before anyone else

The alleged rapist said he helped pioneer female filmmaking.

BECCA GLASSER-BAKER
Rebecca.Glasser@metro.us

Things just got even more real for Harvey Weinstein. GETTY IMAGES

Despite being accused of sexually assaulting or sexually harassing over 80 women, Harvey Weinstein says he helped paved the way for female filmmakers.

Weinstein spoke with The New York Post and proclaimed, he feels like the forgotten man.

The alleged rapist bragged to The Post, "I made more movies directed by women and about women than any filmmaker, and I'm talking about 30 years ago. I'm not talking about now when it's vogue. I did it first! I pioneered it!"

He added, "It all got eviscerated because of what happened."

Weinstein complained that, "My work has been forgotten."

The Post is the first outlet to interview him in over year; it was reportedly to prove he has not been exaggerating about his recent car-crash ailments, sustained in an Aug. 17 car accident. The Post spoke to him as he was recovering from a three-hour spinal surgery to remove three bone plates that are compressing his vertebrae.

Weinstein did the interview because he wanted to dispel the myths that it was minor operation after he was seen heavily relying on a walker at a court appearance last week.

During the interview, he refused to discuss the allegations against him.

He was accused of raping a longtime lover in 2013, who has not been named. He is also forcibly performed oral sex on production assistant Mimi Haleyi in 2006. He is charged with five counts of predatory sexual assault, criminal sex act, and rape in the cases, the Post reports. If convicted, he could face life in prison.

He has denied any wrongdoings.

It was reported that he and his bankrupt film studio The Weinstein Company allegedly reached a $25 million civil settlement with more than 30 accusers.

Gwyneth Paltrow is one of the women who has alleged harassment but is not part of the settlement. He bragged that, "She was the highest-paid female actor in an independent film. Higher-paid than all the men."

Weinstein will be going on trial for rape Jan. 6 in Manhattan Supreme Court.

U.S. government extends deadline to sign up for Obamacare insurance plans

The U.S. government said on Monday the deadline for signing-up for 2020 insurance plans under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has been extended by three days to Dec. 18 to accommodate those who experienced issues while attempting to enroll.

There were website glitches and call center delays reported on Sunday, the earlier deadline for the 2020 open enrollment, and the extension should help the final enrollment tally, said Evercore ISI analyst Michael Newshel.

"The post-Thanksgiving ramp-up in sign-ups was better than expected, and the momentum bodes well for the key final surge into the deadline this Sunday, December 15," Newshel said in a note last week.

Last year, the number of people who signed up for 2019 health plans fell 4% to 8.5 million people from 2018, but saw a typical trend of last-minute shopping in the final week.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services runs enrollment for insurance plans created by the ACA, often called Obamacare, through the online marketplace, HealthCare.gov, for 38 states. REUTERS

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La Salle women's soccer team on probation after hazing allegations

La Salle University placed its women's soccer team on disciplinary probation until the end of 2020 following a hazing investgation.

There were two separate probes of the alleged hazing; the human resources department conducted one and the other was performed by the department of public safety.

A statement from the school stated the investigation revealed examples of "non-violent, power differential hazing."

The statement also read, "While the investigation found no behavior necessitating university disciplinary action against specific individuals, we take very seriously all claims of hazing and other forms of inappropriate behavior."

GETTY IMAGES

Although the school did not clarify on examples of the "non-violent, power differential hazing," freshman Kayla Miller-People told Inquirer.com that there was an "initiation game" where the team allegedly kicked soccer balls at players from every direction.

Miller-People also said there were times when the upperclassmen would eat their meals first, and only leave scraps with no protein for the freshmen. Other alleged incidents took place after late-night bus rides back to campus, in which freshmen had to stick around alone to clean the bus, carry equipment bags in the dark and pick up everyone's trash.

The entire team will reportedly attend a workshop to help "foster respect" for their teammates and provide training on intervention. It was reported they will also have to participate in community service activities.

The team will also have restrictions on competition for the spring season.

BECCA GLASSER-BAKER

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9			6			1	4	2

READER WRITE-INS:

LOUSY WEATHER

This weather really has me down. Storm after storm along with the shorter days of light and below average temperatures. When will it end? By May I guess. Then we'll have to face a summer of stifling heat!

Carolyn, *Metro Philly reader*

ISTOCK

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Know what you want to do and what your responsibilities are. How you handle others will affect the amount of support and help you are offered.

Taurus Take care of details that can make or break plans for family fun. An enthusiastic attitude will encourage others to pitch in and help.

Gemini Stick to basics and tell the truth. If you aren't sure about something, sit tight. Emotions will escalate quickly if you let an outsider interfere in personal matters.

Cancer The race is on, and you appear to be in the lead. Don't hesitate or dither, when all that's required is to follow through with your plans until they are complete.

Leo Money issues should not be ignored. Don't feel that you must spend money to make someone love you. Use your charm, and everything else will fall into place.

Virgo Don't feel that you must agree or side with someone who is putting pressure on you. Have the courage to do what's best for yourself and your loved ones.

Libra A new look at an old concept will lead to a new beginning. Turn one of your ideas into a plan that is geared toward saving more and spending less.

Scorpio A change will be useful for you. Whether it's at home or at work, you'll discover that you can make extra cash doing something you enjoy. Participate and profit.

Sagittarius Listen carefully and consider the source of any information you are given. Get your home ready for the festive season and clear a space for a project you want to start.

Capricorn Take on a little extra work and watch your savings grow. Hang on to your cash instead of spending it on useless items. Innovative gift ideas should be kept well within budget.

Aquarius Don't rely on anyone to do things for you. A change someone makes will be done behind your back. Protect your money, possessions and reputation.

Pisces Certain memories will lead to a sentimental moment. Don't have regrets; learn from your experiences and move forward with a clear head and a good plan. EUGENIA LAST

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Take a trip to the Lehigh Valley before the holiday season ends

So many holiday happenings are just a short car ride away.

MOLLY GIVEN
Molly.Given@metro.us

Sometimes you just want to take a break from the city and see what exciting events there are outside of the Philadelphia limits. During the holidays, Lehigh Valley is certainly the place to be, and with Chrismas right around the corner now is the perfect time to take the scenic trip to this popular holiday destination. Being just a short drive outside of the city makes Lehigh Valley the ultimate 'country-side' Christmas option and there is plenty to do for the whole family. Here is everything going on for the 2019 holiday season in the Lehigh Valley.

Christkindlmarkt
Christkindlmarkt is a part of Christmas City, the top holiday spot in Lehigh Valley – and there certainly is a reason so many people flock here year after year. This magnificent festive wonderland has been home to plenty of fun family-friendly activities and has even been named one of the top holiday markets in the world. Christkindlmarkt features live glass blowing, plenty of one-of-a-kind purchases for last-minute gifts, live music, tasty treats and much, much more. *Weekends now - Dec.23, SteelStacks, 101 Founders Way, Bethlehem, free, discoverlehighvalley.com*

Winter Lights Spectacular at the Lehigh Valley Zoo
The spectacular light show at the Lehigh Valley Zoo features over 1.1 million twinkling lights that will dazzle anyone of any age during this holiday season. At the stunning event, there is also warm hot cocoa, cozy fire pits and Koziar's Christmas Village. Koziar's has been a family favorite for 70 years, and this season certainly promises not to disappoint. *Now - Dec. 30, times vary, Lehigh Valley Zoo, 5150 Game Preserve Rd., Schnecksville, prices vary, discoverlehighvalley.com*

DISCOVER LEHIGH VALLEY

Historic Bethlehem Holiday Tours
Take a tour of the historic and scenic city of Bethlehem and enjoy dancing holiday lights and gorgeously decorated trees while doing so during one of Lehigh Valley's most popular holiday events. After finishing up with the main tour, guests can then check out the Christmas City walking tour led by colonial-dressed guides and become immersed in stories on why candles line each window of Historic Bethlehem, plus the story of the famous Bethlehem Star. *Check out historicbethlehem.org for times, locations and prices of the various tours.*

Peepfest
Peepfest is a must for the end of the holiday season. When New Year's comes around families wonder what fun activities they can do with their kiddos. Peepfest is the perfect answer: the two-day event features a 4-foot, 9-inch tall, 400-pound, giant yellow light-up PEEP and plenty of the other sweet treats to go around. *Dec. 30-31, 10 am - 5:30 pm, SteelStacks, 101 Founders Way, Bethlehem, free, discoverlehighvalley.com*

Dine at Parc in Rittenhouse Square this Christmas. DANIELLE DEIRE

Festive feasts

Here is where to enjoy dinner and more on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day in Philadelphia.

MOLLY GIVEN
Molly.Given@metro.us

Christmas is right around the corner, and many Philadelphians are beginning to iron down their Christmas Eve/Day brunch and dinner plans — the only problem is with so many options it can be hard to choose where to dine for your festive feast. Metro has got you covered with some of the best and most delicious options in the City of Brotherly Love. Here is where to enjoy dinner and more on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day in Philadelphia

Urban Farmer

Philadelphians will have multiple opportunities to enjoy the delicious offerings from popular steakhouse Urban Farmer on Christmas Day. From 6:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., guests can dine on some of Urban's delectable brunch items chock full of both savory and sweet options, then starting at 4 p.m. (seating available until 9 p.m.) guests can also indulge in Urban Farmer's prix fixe dinner with dishes including foie gras torchon, pepper-crusted venison loin, langoustine thermidor, peppermint torte, spiced egg nog Alaska and more. As a spirited bonus, Philadelphians can also sip on a specialty Holiday Julep made with rye whiskey, grapefruit, mint and sugar. *1850 Benjamin Franklin Pkwy, urbanfarmerphiladelphia.com*

Amada

Jose Garces' popular eatery will be celebrating Christmas Eve with its signature endless suckling pig feast. The feast will be accompanied by an array of delicious sides including rosemary white beans, garbanzos con espinacas, herb-roasted fingerlings and grilled green onions. To end the evening on a delicious note, guests can then indulge in Spanish Christmas cookies for dessert. The meal is $60 for adults and $25 for children — Philadelphians can reserve the meal for three different seating times on Dec. 24: 12 p.m., 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. *217-219 Chestnut St., philadelphia.amadarestaurant.com*

CO-OP Restaurant and Lounge

The University City eatery will be serving up their full dinner menu from 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. on Christmas Day. Highlighted items include vegetable crudite, pecorino and herb fries, potato gnocchi, braised beef short rib bolognese, seared Cape May sea scallops, crab fiorelli and much, much more. Guests can also sip on CO-OP's featured cocktail of the day while there, the "Loves Me Not" made with oval cranberry gin, St. Germain, orange liqueur, pomegranate and cranberry. *20 S 33rd St., coopphilly.com*

The Love

The Love will be open on Christmas Day with seating available from 3 p.m. - 8 p.m. The Center City hotspot will be serving up their regular menu for all to enjoy, but also a few new specials including a fresh eastern shore crabcake (made with pink grapefruit aioli and steamed bloomesdale spinach), beef and caviar (made with butter-basted filet mignon, caviar and

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celeriac gratin and pink peppercorn madeira sauce) and eggnog tartufo (made with Olivia's freshly spun eggnog ice cream, a chocolate shell and candied fruit sauce). Philadelphians can also wash down their meal with a hot buttered rum to end things sweetly. *130 S 18th St., theloverestaurant.com*

Red Owl Tavern
Head to Red Owl Tavern on Dec. 24 and 25 to enjoy their annual Chinatown Pop-Up dinner inspired by "A Christmas Story" when Ralphie and his family go to a Chinese restaurant for dinner on Christmas after a mishap with their home-cooked meal. The dinner will include a variety of mouthwatering dishes including pork belly dan dan noodles, peking duck, sweet and sour brussel sprouts, crab wontons, vegetable stir-fried rice, BBQ grilled salmon, a half roasted chicken and more. After indulging in the delicious pop-up menu, guests can also take a photo with the famous leg lamp. *433 Chestnut St., redowltavern.com*

Buddakan
Head to Buddakan on Dec. 25 to enjoy your holiday in style. The Old City hotspot will be serving up their regular menu with some of their classic and most popular dishes including tuna tartare spring rolls, spicy rock shrimp bao buns, edamame dumplings, wasabi mashed potatoes, sweet and crispy jumbo shrimp, lobster fried rice, mint chocolate cake, a trio of sorbet and much more. Guests can pair their meal with one of Buddakan's specialty cocktails, sake options and more from their extensive bar program to complete their meal. *325 Chestnut St., buddakan.com*

Square 1682
Philadelphians can head to Square 1682 for both brunch and dinner on Christmas Day to truly make their holiday delicious and memorable. A brunch a la carte menu will be offered from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. with dishes including caramel pecan sticky buns, sweet potato hash, duck wings and waffles, jerk short rib and biscuits, and more; then starting at 4 p.m. guests can indulge in a five-course dinner with Chef Mackenson Horebe's famous cauliflower curry, Chilean sea bass, candy beet salad, Christmas cookies and more for $65. *121 S 17th St., square1682.com*

Parc
Parc will be offering their all-day menu on Dec. 25 from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., so there is plenty of time to indulge in this Rittenhouse hotspot's offerings on Christmas Day. Menu items include an assortment of oysters, ricotta ravioli, salmon tartare, beef bourguignon, Mediterranean sea bass, veal escalope and more. Parc will also be offering Buche de Noel as an indulgent dessert special for Philadelphians to enjoy all day long as well. *227 S 18th St., parc-restaurant.com*

Branzino
True to its name, Center city hotspot Branzino will be offering a Seven Fishes feast on Christmas Eve with seating beginning at 5 p.m. According to the release, for $75 per person, seafood lovers will enjoy the following: sea bass crudo with blood orange and watermelon radish; shrimp with burrata and tomato broth; char-grilled octopus with chips and bell pepper sott'acetto; Sicilian style calamari with capers, pine nuts, black currants and olives; squid ink tagliatelle with mussels, calabrian chile and oven-roasted tomatoes; seared diver scallops with cauliflower puree and roasted cauliflower; and pan-roasted cod with calamari and cannellini bean stew. Dinner will then conclude with Branzino's signature Albanian three-milk cake for dessert. *261 S 17th St., branzinophilly.com*

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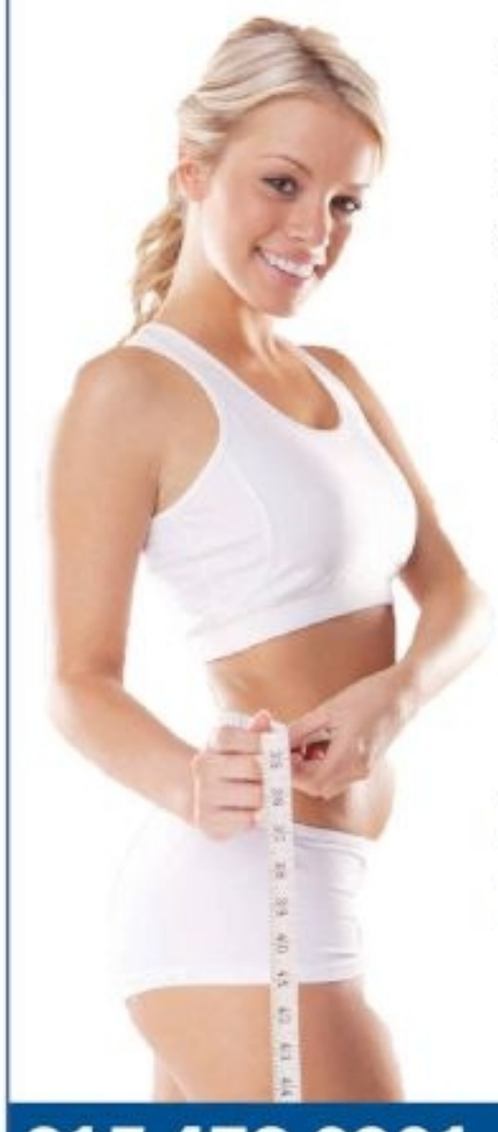

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Will there be a second season of 'Watchmen?' Here's what Damon Lindelof says

Damon Lindelof's take on "Watchmen," Alan Moore, John Higgins and Dave Gibbons' seminal comic book series from the 1980s, has been adored by critics and audiences alike.

That should mean that a second season of "Watchmen" is inevitable. However, "The Leftovers" and "Lost" co-creator has been very, very cagey about whether or not there will actually be any more episodes.

In fact, speaking to Deadline back in early October ahead of the release of the show, Lindelof said he had no plans to make a second season.

"We designed these nine episodes to be as self-contained as the original 12 issues [of the comics]. We wanted to feel like there was a sense of completeness, to resolve the essential mystery at hand," he explained, before admitting, "Obviously, there is a potential promise for the further exploration of the world but like the seasons of 'Leftovers' that I did as opposed to 'Lost,' which was designed to have cliffhanger finales and a promise of future storytelling.

"Does that mean that there isn't going to be anymore 'Watchmen?' Not necessarily. Does that mean that I will be working on subsequent seasons of 'Watchmen?' I don't know is the answer to that question."

A month later, when Lindelof spoke to Metro.co.uk, he explained exactly why he has been so reserved about discussing a second season of "Watchmen."

"I think there's a fair amount of hubris in planning multiple seasons of a television show in this day and age. Every single idea we had is represented in these nine episodes, there was no time where we were like, 'Let's save that for later.' We wanted the audience to have a complete experience of a story with a beginning middle and end."

But it was at this point that Lindelof gave his first indication that he would be open to returning for a second season of "Watchmen," which takes place 34 years after the events of the comics and Lindelof has described as a remix of the series. Although he suggested that, if he did return, it might take him a while to figure out what he would explore in future episodes.

"If people are like, 'That was a pretty good meal, I'm good,' then there doesn't necessarily need to be anymore. But more importantly, I haven't had any ideas of what subsequent series of 'Watchmen' would be. Until those ideas come, I'm content with just letting this one sit out there for a while."

At the end of November, Lindelof provided a further update of the chances of a second season of "Watchmen" to LAD Bible, insisting, "If the idea is right, and if there is a compelling reason to do it, then I'd consider it. I haven't had that idea yet."

However, it sounds as though, if he did decide to return for a second season, he'd want to discuss what would happen with the original creators of "Watchmen." "The other thing about 'Watchmen' is that it doesn't belong to me," Lindelof added. "Alan Moore, Dave Gibbons and John Higgins created this thing, I had the opportunity to be its steward for a couple of years."

But while Lindelof is still clearly unsure about its future, "Watchmen" director and executive producer Nicole Kassell is much more adamant that there will and should be a second season.

"As a fan who has seen this whole thing, I definitely think there is content for a season two, if not more," she told Business Insider, before tantalizingly teasing, "I think it would be delicious and wonderful to see." GREGORY WAKEMAN
MWN

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MATT BURKE

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editor in Chief of MetroBet.

If you anticipate being bored over the holidays, or if you simply want a reason to avoid talking to your Aunt Gertrude about the current political climate – betting and watching college bowl games is a wonderful distraction.

Starting this Friday, there are bowl games just about every day and night right through the new year.

Bowl season truly is a sports betting feast.

DraftKings Sportsbook, which is now legal and up and running in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, is currently offering a college football prize pool special.

The latest pool special on Monday afternoon was a $5,000 guaranteed pool that has a $10 entry fee. You bet on all of the bowl games against the spread in this one, and the person who picks the most games correctly wins the $5K.

If you use our DraftKings Sportsbook affiliate link at **Tinyurl.com/s8etj3h** you'll receive up to $500 in free cash.

As of Monday afternoon, there were only 16 slots available for the $5K pool at **Tinyurl.com/s8etj3h** so get on this ASAP if you're interested.

Final Four Saturday

The way the calendar falls this year is advantageous for college bowl bettors as the National Championship semifinals will take place on a Saturday (Dec. 28). The NCAA thankfully did not mess around with New Year's Eve this year, and has its most important games of the season on a Saturday, the day in which college football should be played.

Here are the current National Championship odds at **FanDuel.com/Metro.** Remember that you can get $500 in free cash at **FanDuel.com/Metro.**

LSU +150
Clemson +190
Ohio State +230
Oklahoma +1400

If you're looking for value in the futures market here, roll with Clemson at +190 and Ohio State at +230. Those two play one another in a national semifinal game on the 28th, but both are more than capable of giving the favorite, LSU, a run for their money in the National Championship game on Monday, Jan. 13.

ALL GETTY IMAGES

TWEET OF THE DAY

Todd Fuhrman
@ToddFuhrman

52.4 percent ... It's number every sports bettor needs to have drummed into their head from the moment they place their first bet

It's the line you need to cross for profit assuming traditional juice of -110

Best bets

College Bowl betting: Utah St vs. Kent St

Toyota Stadium in Frisco, TX is the site for Friday night's Frisco Bowl between the Utah State Aggies and the Kent State Golden Flashes. The Aggies (7-5) could be a bit short on motivation here, making the Golden Flashes (6-6) appealing as sizable underdogs.

Utah State had high aspirations when the season began, but Air Force, BYU and Boise State all beat the Aggies by multiple scores in conference play. Junior signal caller Jordan Love leads the way on offense, and he took a big step backwards off a stellar sophomore campaign by posting a mediocre 17-16 TD-INT ratio this year. Kent State is not a great defensive team (91st in scoring) but they are better at stopping the pass (56th) than the run.

The Golden Flashes seek their first bowl victory in school history in just their second postseason appearance since 1972. They posted three consecutive straight-up victories as underdogs to become bowl eligible. Utah State's defense is soft in the middle (103rd in rushing yards allowed per game), so look for dual-threat quarterback Dustin Crum to use his legs.

The play: Kent State +7.5

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Carson Wentz has pulled off two-straight game-winning drives to keep the Eagles' playoff hopes alive. GETTY IMAGES

WENTZ'S LATE-GAME HEROICS WON'T SILENCE HIS CRITICS

THE SPORTS PROFESSOR

GLEN MACNOW
@RealGlenMacnow

If you believe the unpaid experts on social media, Carson Wentz is forever stuck in the shadow of Nick Foles and should be benched for backup Josh McCown. If you listen to some voices in the media, you've learned that Wentz is an emotional weakling whose teammates don't like playing with him.

Those keyboard critics were in full throttle late into Sunday's game against Washington as Wentz fumbled three times. He's prone to that — having dropped the ball 45 times since 2016.

His third fumble, late in the fourth quarter, led to a 43-yard Washington field goal and a 27-24 'Skins lead. It appeared disastrous — for the game and the entire season.

TV cameras showed Wentz pounding his chest on the sidelines, seeming to take the blame for his gaffe, wanting one more chance at redemption.

He got it. On the game's final drive, Wentz drove the Eagles 75 yards in 4:26 for the winning TD. He fired darts to Dallas Goedert, Greg Ward and several other teammates who weren't on the depth chart a few weeks back.

For the second straight game, he was perfect in crunch time, directing one of those comeback wins on which great QBs are based. Yes, both were against inferior opponents. Yes, Wentz's uneven play in both games created the spot that required such late-game magic.

But both times he succeeded. You saw the maturation right in front of your eyes.

Wentz's fourth-quarter stats Sunday: 11-for-11 for 89 yards and two TDs. The touch pass game-winner to Ward came with 26 seconds left, giving Washington no opportunity to come back in the game.

As I said, the kid is not flawless. Like Donovan McNabb before him, he'll fall into a bad rhythm, firing worm burners. He doesn't see (or ignores) open receivers at times. He has fumbled an astounding 13 times in the past eight games, losing six of them. His pocket presence needs to get much better.

But those flaws are fixable, particularly when the student has Wentz's work ethic. What we've always known is that he possesses terrific raw talent. What we're now seeing is the development of that late-game magic.

I sometimes rail at Wentz's abusers, but I should really know better. Such criticism comes with the job.

To be a starting quarterback in Philadelphia is to invite year-round, career-long skepticism that often morphs into malice. Don't believe me, ask Donovan McNabb.

"Number Five" was a goofball (remember the air guitar before Dallas?) who lacked the good sense to take the blame for losses, and may or may not have barfed in the Super Bowl. He was also an extremely good quarterback.

Before him, Randall Cunningham was a flashpoint for fans throughout his 11-year career here. And before that, Ron Jaworski was the No. 1 target of boobirds just one season after leading the Eagles to the Super Bowl.

By the way, this isn't just a Philadelphia thing, despite what national haters of our city argue. A few decades back I was in Buffalo, cringing at a sports radio debate whether Jim Kelly should be exiled in place of Frank Reich. And John Elway once almost divorced Denver over tabloid accounts that he had a drinking problem — and was a cheapskate doling out Halloween candy.

That's probably worse than any shots Wentz has taken — for now. Who knows what's to come. At least the back-to-back late-game wins should silence some of the hectorings.

Well, all the way up to Sunday's game against Dallas, at least.

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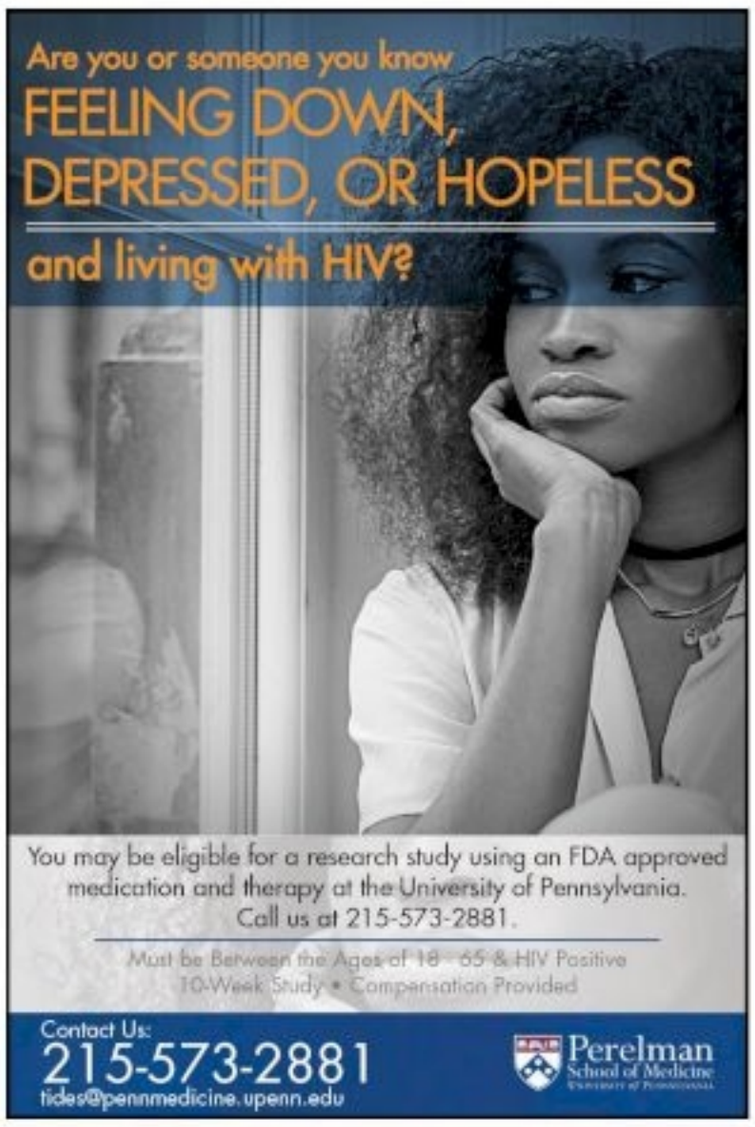
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$ PAYING up to $50/Box $
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$100--$5000
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SAME DAY PICKUP
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With or Without Title!
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SERVICES

$$$ CASH $$$

FOR DIABETIC TEST STRIPS
December Special Only - Limited Time Only
OTUB: 100ct = $40, ACAP: 100ct = $50
Contour Next: 100ct = $30
Turn in your Unopened, Unexpired boxes of Diabetic Test Strips and Get Cash on the Spot!!
Also buying Nicoderm and Nicorette $10 & buying Diabetic Sensors up to $50
221 W. Girard Ave (drop off only) | Hours: M-F 8:30-3:30pm Sat: 10-2pm
267-275-1717 | www.dollarsforstrips.com

CA$H TODAY!!

FOR DIABETIC TEST STRIPS!!
#1 IN CUSTOMER SERVICE • MOST BRANDS ACCEPTED
WE PAY YOU MORE! • UP TO $100 PER BOX!
(MUST BE UNOPENED AND NON-EXPIRED TEST STRIPS)
WE PICK UP!
CALL (484) 447-1223
TO SCHEDULE A PICK UP TODAY!

$$ CA$H $$

FOR DIABETIC TEST STRIPS
Paying Up To $100
We Pickup & Pay Top Dollar!!
Call or Text NOW: 267-225-4164

CA$H PAID

FOR DIABETIC TEST STRIPS!
ABSOLUTE TOP VALUE
MOST BRANDS ACCEPTED
PAY UP TO $60 PER BOX
WE PICK UP
Call James 610-453-2525

$$$ CASH PAID $$$

BUYING NICOTINE PATCHES / GUM AND LOZENGES
We Pickup
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DIVORCE

$250 Complete!
Includes Court Costs
Uncontested, No-Fault, Mutual Consent
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Document Prep Service, Not a Lawyer

MITCHELL TEST STRIPS INC

We buy Diabetic Test Strips
We will pay up to $60 per box
We will pick up
GUARANTEED
CALL #215.820.4312

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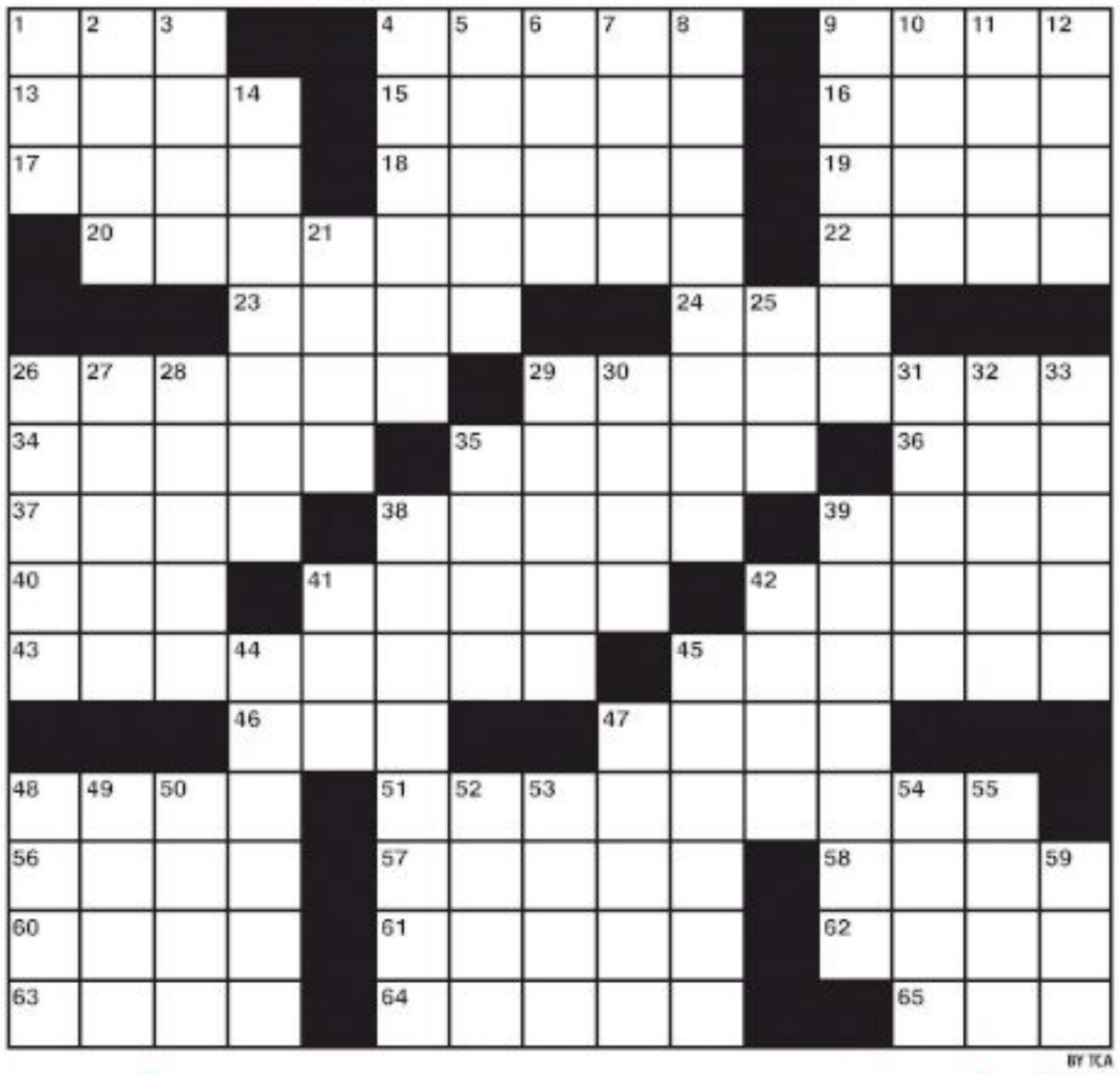
GAMES

metro.us/crossword

Powered by Arkadium

Check your answers at metro.us/games



BY TCA

ACROSS
1 Big heart
4 Has none of
9 __ angle; sloping
13 Candied __; sweet side dish
15 Sports venue
16 "All You Need Is __"; Beatles hit
17 Long heroic story
18 Printer cartridge contents
19 Clark Kent's love
20 Objected
22 Cutlass or Alero
23 Cairo's river
24 Debtor's note
26 TV's "Ned and __"
29 Golf course hazard
34 Refers to
35 Tear to bits
36 Not long __; recently
37 Painting, dancing, etc.
38 Con artist's ruses
39 Title for old Russian rulers
40 Luau ring
41 Smacks
42 Liquor
43 Intensify; heighten
45 Raised, as kids
46 High school building
47 Allows
48 Mast
51 Driven; enthusiastic
56 Steel's main component
57 Overdo the role
58 Way out
60 Period before Easter
61 Passenger
62 Run fast
63 Breakfast order
64 Market
65 "Cry __ River"

DOWN
1 Affirmative vote
2 Cartoonist Al __
3 Kuwaiti ruler
4 Recently
5 Ascended
6 Penny
7 Part of the leg
8 Tiny canned fishes
9 Total; full-blown
10 Wrench or saw
11 Eager
12 Loch __ monster
14 Wall candle holders
21 Even scores
25 Peculiar
26 Climb
27 Michelin products
28 Garret
29 In good __; fit
30 Strong-__; forces physically
31 Shaver's need
32 Staring
33 __ over; studied intently
35 "Begone!"
38 Jails
39 Roller __; wild ride
41 Devious
42 Alpha's follower
44 Representatives
45 Venerate
47 British measure
48 Stack
49 "The Beaver State": abbr.
50 Drawn-out
52 Leave out
53 Commotion
54 Reason to study
55 Yahtzee cubes
59 Afternoon social

metro.us/wordsearch

V	K	R	E	S	O	P	M	O	C
O	I	L	E	D	I	F	P	Q	L
Y	C	T	B	A	O	P	E	R	A
A	R	Y	N	O	H	P	M	Y	S
G	R	O	M	A	N	T	I	C	S
E	T	T	C	U	D	N	O	C	I
R	T	O	T	R	E	C	N	O	C
M	U	S	I	C	Z	Y	E	M	A
A	V	P	A	S	T	O	R	A	L
N	E	V	O	H	T	E	E	B	V

Beethoven
Bonn
Classical
Composer
Concerto
Conduct
German
Music
Opera
Piano
Romantic
Symphony
Pastoral
Fidelio
Voyager

metro.us/wander

Category: Vehicle

	O	C
P	R	K
I	T	E
H	S	

Trace a path, using every letter once, to find the hidden phrase. Your path can turn in any direction, but not diagonally.

metro.us/sudoku

	7		1	4	9		5	2
					5			
5	6		7	3				
	1				3			9
7	4						3	8
6			9				4	
				8	4		2	6
			5					
2	5		6	9	7		8	

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Yesterday's Answers

■	V	A	L	■	S	P	R	A	Y	■	T	A	F	T
M	I	N	I	■	W	A	I	V	E	■	R	U	L	E
B	A	T	S	■	I	N	D	I	S	P	O	S	E	D
A	L	I	■	S	P	E	E	D	■	L	U	T	E	S
■	■	C	A	K	E	S	■	■	C	U	P	■	■	■
A	L	I	B	I	S	■	■	D	E	C	E	I	T	■
R	O	P	E	S	■	C	H	A	L	K	■	M	R	S
T	W	A	S	■	S	H	E	L	L	■	S	P	O	T
S	E	T	■	S	H	O	N	E	■	S	T	E	V	E
■	R	E	C	O	U	P	■	■	S	H	A	R	E	R
■	■	■	H	U	N	■	■	O	P	E	R	A	■	■
A	P	R	O	N	■	S	Q	U	A	D	■	T	O	E
B	L	O	O	D	H	O	U	N	D	■	V	I	V	A
L	E	T	S	■	A	L	I	C	E	■	O	V	E	R
E	A	S	Y	■	M	O	P	E	S	■	W	E	N	■

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If you're experiencing periods of intense and sudden emotional swings that affect your relationships, work, and quality of life, it could be related to a medical condition called borderline personality disorder (BPD). Learn more about BPD and a research trial to study an investigational drug for people who have BPD.

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Let us make shopping easier! Order online or in-person and we'll deliver your groceries right to your door!*

visit: **ReadingTerminalMarket.org**

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Celebrating the Feast of the Seven Fishes?
The following merchants have you covered!

Golden Fish Market

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Pearl's Oyster Bar

Umi Seafood & Sushi

PRODUCE & FRESH HERBS:

Iovine Brothers Produce

Kennett Square Specialties

OK Produce

The Market will be closed on Christmas Day. All orders must be picked up on or before closing on Tuesday, December 24th. Please keep in mind that some Merchants may close early on Christmas Eve.

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Condiment
Jonathan Best Gourmet Grocer
The Head Nut

SIDES:

A Taste of Spain
Amina's Foods
Beiler's
By George
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since 1893 ®

Holiday Shopping Guide

12th & Arch Streets ◆ ReadingTerminalMarket.org

We'll Shop For You & Even Deliver!

If you cannot make it to the Market to shop, you can use our new **Online Ordering & Delivery Service** to pick up your groceries at the Customer Hub within the Market, or have them delivered* to your door.

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Free Parking For Up to Two Hours from January 2 - January 31: Only at Hilton Garage at 11th & Arch Streets or Parkway garage at 12th & Filbert Streets. Spend $40 or more and bring your receipts to the Customer Hub (located behind The Head Nut) to get your ticket validated for free parking for up to two hours. After two hours regular rates apply. Online orders for pick up can also receive free parking on orders of $40 or more with validation.

Also Available:

Free Shopping Carts (located at the Customer Hub)

Complimentary Grocery Bag Hold (Located at the Customer Hub)

Free Delivery on Demand (Located at the Customer Hub)

Ambassadors to Answer your Questions (look for Ambassadors in white shirts with green aprons)

Purchase Beer or Wine from Molly Malloy's to Enjoy While You Shop

Holiday Hours

The Market will be closed on Christmas Day, so please be sure to pick up all of your supplies before then. Please note that some merchants may close early on Christmas Eve.

The Market will be open on New Year's Eve, but please note that some merchants may close early.

The Market will be closed on New Year's Day.

Open Every Day 8 AM – 6 PM ◆ ReadingTerminalMarket.org